

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 07051 190903Z

70

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 EUR-25 NEA-10 IO-14 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01

SPC-03 NSC-10 ACDA-19 AID-20 OMB-01 L-03 SS-20 H-03

MC-02 EB-11 CCO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USSS-00

DRC-01 /198 W

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R 190724Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 628

UNCLAS SEOUL 7051

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, KS

SUBJECT: ROK REACTION TO MIDDLE EAST SITUATION

1. ROK MEDIA HAVE BEEN CLOSELY FOLLOWING THE MIDDLE EAST WAR, GIVING IT CONTINUOUS HEAVY COVERAGE WITH PRIORITY OVER MOST OTHER NEWS ITEMS. PRESS HAS ADOPTED A NEUTRAL POSITION IN REPORTING FULLY ON MILITARY AND DIPLOMATIC DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING THE TWO SIDES.

2. PRESS ACCOUNTS HAVE INCLUDED HEAVY CONVERAGE OF REPORTED CLASHES BETWEEN ISRAELIS AND NORTH KOREAN PILOTS FLYING FOR EGYPT.

3. WHILE IMPLYING SOME SYMPATHY FOR THE ISRAELI POSITION, INITIAL EDITORIAL REACTION REFLECTED VIEW THAT THE ROK HAS NO DIRECT INTEREST IN A VICTORY BY EITHER SIDE AND AN ANXIETY TO SEE THE WAR ENDED BEFORE IT BECAME A THREAT TO WORLD PEACE. EDITORIALS POINTED OUT- WITH SOME MONOR CRITICISM OF BOTH U.S. AND USSR - THAT WITH MATERIEL RESUPPLY BY THE SUPERPOWERS THERE WOULD BE NO QUICK MILITARY SOLUTION AND WARNED THAT A PROLONGED WAR MIGHT ENDANGER THE

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PAGE 02 SEOUL 07051 190903Z

FLOW OF OIL FROM ARAB LANDS AND INCREASE THE THREAT OF

WIDER CONFLICT.

4. WITH ANNOUNCEMENT OF ARABS' PLAN TO CUT OIL OUTPUT AND
RAISE PRICES, PRESS OCTOBER 18 AND 19 HAS NOTED ROK IS NOW
DIRECTLY AFFECTED BY THE WAR. EDITORIALS HAVE URGED ROKG TO
TAKE APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO INSURE ADEQUATE FUEL.
HABIB

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Message Attributes

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